

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ELAB EC

SUBJ: GOE TAKES ACTION ON ILLEGAL STRIKES

REF: QUITO 2444

1. FOLLOWING SEVERAL WEEKS OF INACTION IN THE FACT OF ILLEGAL STRIKES, THE GOE MOVED DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF APRIL 6 TO EXPEL THE STRIKERS OCCUPYING THE PITA-TAMBO WATER TREATMENT FACILITY BEING CONSTRUCTED BY THE AMERICAN COMPANY CEBOR (C & C BOHRER IN ECUADOR) AND THE FACTORY BEING CONSTRUCTED BY ENKA (ENKADOR). ALTHOUGH THE NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE MOVE BY POLICE TO REMOVE THE WORKERS WAS NOT RESISTED, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THER WAS IN FACT SOME PHYSICAL RESISTENCE AT THE PITA-TAMBO SITE (SEE PARA 4, BELOW).

2. THE GOE HAS ALSO ORDERED THE STRIKERS OCCUPYING THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING PLANT TO WITHDRAW BUT THE WORKDERS HAVE REFUSED. NO MOVE HAS BEEN TAKEN AS YET TO REMOVE THEM.

3. THE GOE MOVE FOLLOWED A THREAT BY ENKADOR TO LIQUIDATE IF ACTION WERE NOT TAKEN TO REMOVE THE ILLEGALLY STRIKING WORKERS WITHIN 24 HOURS.

4. THE COMPANY SUFFERING THE OTHER STRIKE RECENTLY

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DECLARED ILLEGAL BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR (MADERAS

TRATADAS) HAS BEGUN THE FORMAL LEGAL STEPS LEADING TO LIQUIDATION. ITS UNION, HOWEVER, HAS APPEALED TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR TO EXPEL THE DISSIDENTS OCCUPYING THE COMPANY SO THAT THE MAJORITY OF WORKERS CAN RETURN TO WORK.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE CTE CLAIMS THAT ONE WORKER WHO WAS BEATEN BY POLICE WHEN THEY CLEARED THE PITA-TAMBO SITE HAS DISAPPEARED. THE CTE FEARS THAT THE MISSING WORKER WAS IN FACT KILLED BY THE POLICE AND THE CTE HAS REQUESTED THE OTHER TWO CONFEDERATIONS (CEDOC, CEOSL) TO JOIN IN A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONDEMNING AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND POLICE BURTALITY. CEOSL IS RESISTING SIGNING A DOCUMENT CONDEMNING AMERICAN IMPERIALISM BUT IS WILLING TO ENDORSE AN ATTACK ON THE PLICE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

6. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED SEPT. 6 IN PROTEST AGAINST THE EXPULSION OF THE STRIKERS. IF IN FACT A WORKER HAS DIED THE STUDENTS MAY WELL BEGIN MORE INTENSE DEMONSTRATIONS.

7. SPECIFICS ON CEBOR'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE QUITO MUNICIPALITY ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.
BREWSTER

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